

From: [L.A. Area Chamber](#)
To: [Kent Smith](#)
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Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce | JULY 23



L.A. BUSINESS THIS WEEK

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Weekly Newsletter



Chamber fights to protect job growth

Testifying Tuesday against boosting the minimum wage, Chamber President & CEO Gary Toeppen went before the L.A. County Supervisors, in what is an ongoing debate for businesses and the communities in the region. Even so, L.A. County supervisors Board of Supervisors voted to direct the County CEO to draft a motion to raise the minimum wage from \$9 to \$15 by 2020 in county-controlled unincorporated areas. The Supervisors are expected to cast the final vote in the coming months. [READ MORE.](#)

BOTTOM LINE: Current minimum wage proposal will negatively impact many small businesses throughout L.A. County.



Sailing away with the Chamber's top investing companies

Chamber board and circle level members had an evening of executive level networking on the water Wednesday. Lori Schwartz, co-founder & chief technology catalyst of Story-Tech, made sure members weren't drowning in the sea of technology as she presented the future of the tech industry in L.A. with the evening's yacht races as a backdrop. [VIEW THE PHOTO GALLERY.](#)

BOTTOM LINE: The Chamber connects L.A.'s most influential business leaders.



CHAMBER CALENDAR

REFERRAL NETWORK
BREAKFAST | TUESDAY,
JULY 28

LAND USE,
CONSTRUCTION &
HOUSING COUNCIL |
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29



Crowdfunding ... You know you want to

This week, the Chamber's [Bixel Exchange](#) hosted a startup fundraising workshop focused on crowdfunding with the super cool [Adam Chapnick](#) leading the discussion. The former principal at Indiegogo, Chapnick is known for disrupting long-established industries with tech-supported new-model approaches. But don't worry if you missed it – there's more where that came from. Offering workshops like this, plus advisory services and access to tech leaders, is how Bixel Exchange is changing the game in L.A.

BOTTOM LINE: The Chamber is driving the growth of L.A.'s tech sector.



The Chamber supports Uber and Lyft serving LAX

Last week, the Chamber went before L.A. City Airport Commissioners to voice support to allow ride services such as **Uber** and **Lyft** to pick up passengers at **LAX**. Los Angeles will become the largest U.S. city to grant full airport access to these growing technology-based companies. [READ MORE.](#)

BOTTOM LINE: The Chamber supports free enterprise and growth of new companies.



Just when you were wondering about state tax reform

State tax reform is top of mind for Senator Robert Hertzberg, who is strongly committed to a balanced state tax reform for the long term. SB 8, which proposes tax reform, eliminates the state's 'boom-and-bust' tax structure. Interested in Government & Fiscal Affairs Council? [FIND THE NEXT MEETING.](#)

BOTTOM LINE: SB 8 is aimed at replacing the tax revenue currently authorized by Proposition 30 with a reform that includes taxing services.



Chamber expands opportunities in Turkey for L.A. area businesses

The Chamber's Global Initiatives team is dedicated to expanding business opportunities for Southern California businesses. Today, they hosted the Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Los Angeles, as well as representatives from the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey and **Turkish Airlines**. The group discussed long-term opportunities for American companies in

Turkey's growing economy. Curious about the Chamber's work in global trade? [READ MORE.](#)

BOTTOM LINE: The Chamber is advancing global trade and connecting local businesses to international relationships.



Keeping an eye on Health Care funding

Facing \$5-6 billion in funding challenges in 2016, Governor Jerry Brown has begun a special legislative session on health care financing. Hearings are being held in the Senate and Assembly to discuss the needs of our continuously expanding Medi-Cal population, services for people with developmental disabilities and a restructuring of the current Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax structure.

BOTTOM LINE: The special legislative session on health care funding could impact many businesses and we've got our eye on it.



Enhancing L.A.'s long-term economic competitiveness

The technology-intensive demands in today's workforce have catapulted all industry sectors into the Information Age. Keeping up with this fast-paced change provides new challenges to companies and employees. On Friday, 130 regional civic, business, education and philanthropic leaders met to address this at the "Closing the Skills Gap: Regional Solutions for a Thriving Economy" event. See [JPMorgan's "Los Angeles Skills Gap" report](#). [VIEW THE PHOTO GALLERY.](#)

BOTTOM LINE: The Chamber is leading the way in solving workforce challenges in the growing industry sectors.

Seen & heard this week...

MARCIE EDWARDS, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, at the Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council on July 17; **MELISSA STAFFORD JONES**, Director, Region 9, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, at the Health Care Council on July 20; and **EDDIE BADER**, Account Manager, Companybuilt Inc., at Tech Thursdays on July 23.

In the news...

[BES-TECH, INC. HONORED AS AN IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER BY THE LOS ANGELES BETTER BUILDINGS CHALLENGE](#), *Bezinga.com*, 7.22.15; [BIDEN URGES \\$12 FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE AS LOCALS MOVE TOWARD \\$15](#), *Bloomberg.com*, 7.22.15; [L.A. COUNTY SUPERVISORS AGREE TO BOOST MINIMUM WAGE TO \\$15 AN HOUR BY 2020](#), *Los Angeles Times*, 7.21.15; [LAX GIVES UBER AND LYFT THE GREEN LIGHT FOR PASSENGER PICKUP](#), *Washington Post*, 7.17.15; [WHICH CITIES ARE THE TOP ED HUBS?](#), *educationweek.com*, 7.17.15; [LAX BOARD VOTES TO ALLOW UBER, LYFT PASSENGER PICKUPS](#), *abc7.com*, 7.16.15; [LAX BECOMES LARGEST US AIRPORT TO ALLOW RIDESHARING SERVICES TO PICKUP PASSENGERS](#), *NBC Los Angeles*, 7.16.15; [STATE & FEDS MUST ADDRESS TRANSPORTATION FUNDING CRISIS](#), *EGPNews.com*, 7.16.15; and [L.A. ASKS MAKERS TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED](#),

nextcity.org, 6.29.15.

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